

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 HEW-06 OES-07

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

TRSE-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 /122 W

-----090935Z 092511 /17

R 090835Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7157

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 3499

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO

SUBJECT: WHO - FIRST WEEK'S ACTIVITIES OF WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
(MAY 2 - 20, 1977)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WHA LISTED TO ROUSING ANNUAL REPORT
BY DG MAHLER, FELT FIRST RUMBLES OF ARAB/ISRAELI DISPUTE,
AND WENT INTO COMMITTEE SESSION. IN COMMITTEE A, DG'S
NEW PROGRAM BUDGET STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING 60-40 GOAL WON
OVERWHELMING APPROVAL (U.S. ABSTAINING). IN COMMITTEE B,
VIET NAM ASSESSMENT ISSUE RAISED QUESTION (TO BE ANSWERED
NEXT WEEK) OF WHETHER WHO IS TO MAKE EXCEPTION TO ITS RULE
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OF FOLLOWING UN SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS. ON NIGHT OF MAY 6,
SENATOR KENNEDY SPOKE TO WHO MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE NEED
FOR INCREASED US INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH.
AUDIENCE CONSISTED OF DELEGATES AND WHO STAFF MEMBERS.
END SUMMARY.

2. GENEVA GROUP: AT MEETING OF GENEVA GROUP MAY 2 US

POSITION ON WHO BUDGET FOR 1978-79 EVOKED SYMPATHETIC NOISES BUT LITTLE SUPPORT. GERMANY, JAPAN AND ITALY ALSO VOICED STRONG CONCERNS. FOR TIME BEING, HOWEVER, ONLY ITALY PREPARED TO GO ALONG ON ABSTENTION. THERE WAS SOME AGREEMENT THAT GROUP SHOULD MOVE QUICKLY TO INFLUENCE 1980-81 BUDGET SIZE, BUT EVEN HERE UK DEL INDICATED THAT AIM SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE ZERO NET GROWTH, AND CANADIAN DEL SAID GROUP HAD TO BE "REALISTIC" ABOUT 1980-81 BUDGET, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD CERTAINLY TRY HARD TO KEEP GROWTH DOWN. DUTCH AND SWEDISH DELS, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, HEARTILY SUPPORTED 1978 BUDGET AND PRAISED WHO PROGRAMS.

3. DG'S ADDRESS: AS HE DID LAST YEAR, DG CALLED FOR A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF HEALTH RESOURCES WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, WHO'S NEW PROGRAM STRATEGY IS BASED ESSENTIALLY ON MAXIMUM SELF-RELIANCE BY ALL COUNTRIES IN HEALTH MATTERS, AND WHO WILL PAY GREATEST ATTENTION TO THOSE COUNTRIES WITH FEWEST HEALTH RESOURCES. MEMBER STATES MUST SEEK TO IMPLEMENT THE HEALTH GOALS AND PRIORITIES THEY HAVE AGREED ON IN GENEVA. DG SAID WHO WILL NOT HESITATE TO REMIND MEMBER COUNTRIES, RICH OR POOR, OF THEIR DUTY TO HELP ATTAIN NATIONAL AND GLOBAL TARGETS THAT THEY HAVE AGREED ON COLLECTIVELY IN WHO. MOST IMPORTANT USE OF REGULAR BUDGET WILL BE TO GENERATE NEW RESOURCES IN MEMBER STATES THEMSELVES, AND IN PARTICULAR HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT. CITING CERTAIN ESTIMATES THAT LDCS CAN GENERATE 90 PERCENT OF RESOURCES NEEDED TO RAISE STANDARDS OF POORER HALF OF WORLD POPULATION TO REASONABLE LEVEL IN 20 YEARS, UNCLASSIFIED

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DG CALCULATED THAT HEALTH COMPONENT OF THE 10 PERCENT IN EXTERNAL FUNDING REQUIRED OVER THIS PERIOD WOULD BE 5 PERCENT OF SUCH FUNDING. THIS MEANT AN ANNUAL TRANSFER OF \$750 MILLION FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR HEALTH. DG NOTED THAT THIS REPRESENTS 0.25 PERCENT OF CURRENT ANNUAL HEALTH SPENDING BY DCS. TO MAKE THE MOST OF WHO'S LIMITED FUNDS, DG SAID HE HAD TURNED TO OTHER SOURCES OF MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL AID, "INSISTING THAT THEY GIVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO WHO'S OBJECTIVE OF HEALTH FOR ALL BEFORE END OF THIS CENTURY." RESPONSE SO FAR HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING. DG CALLED FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT FROM WHA FOR A "SOCIAL REVOLUTION IN COMMUNITY HEALTH," WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE, HE CONCLUDED, "A READINESS TO SACRIFICE PART OF NATIONAL HEALTH SOVEREIGNTY IN FAVOR OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SOVEREIGNTY."

4. POLITICAL ISSUES: ISRAELI DEL LED OFF LIST OF SPEAKERS WHO REPLIED TO DG'S SPEECH. CITED RELATIVELY GOOD HEALTH CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, SAID OVER

TEN THOUSAND ARABS FROM IRAQ TO YEMEN HAD VISITED ISRAEL DURING PAST YEAR TO SEEK MEDICAL CARE, AND WARNED THAT POLITICIZATION THREATENED WHO'S VERY EXISTENCE. ARAB SPEAKERS WHO FOLLOWED HEATEDLY DENIED ISRAEL ASSERTIONS. ON MAY 5 SOVIET AND GDR DELS ADDRESSED LETTERS TO WHA PRESIDENT CHALLENGING PRESENCE ON FRG DEL OF WEST BERLIN OFFICIAL. NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN DELS EXCHANGED BITTER ACCUSATIONS. ALBANIAN DEL WARNED ASSEMBLY THAT SOVIET AND WESTERN IMPERIALISM ARE AT WORK IN FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AS WELL AS EVERYWHERE ELSE. HOWEVER, GREAT MAJORITY OF SPEECHES, WHICH TOOK UP TWO AND A HALF DAYS IN ALL, WERE DEVOTED TO HEALTH ISSUES AND EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE FOR WHO AND THE DG.

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5. COMMITTEE A: PRINCIPAL ITEM DISCUSSED WAS DG'S BUDGET PROGRAM STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTING LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION WHA29.48 CALLING FOR REORIENTATION OF REGULAR BUDGET SO THAT BY 1980 60 PERCENT OF IT GOES TO TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND SERVICES TO MEMBER COUNTRIES. U.S. STATEMENT OF RESERVATION CONCERNING \$5 MILLION IN UNPROGRAMMED FUNDS IN 1978 BUDGET, DERIVED FROM DG'S SAVINGS AT HEADQUARTERS, PROMPTED JAPANESE AND SPANISH DELS TO VOICE THEIR CONCERN ALSO OVER BUDGET GROWTH. HOWEVER, OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF DELS GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO STRATEGY RESOLUTION WHICH WAS FINALLY ADOPTED 84-0-4 (U.S., YEMEN, YUGOSLAVIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO). INCIDENTALLY, UNCLASSIFIED

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YUGOSLAV ABSTENTION STEMMED FROM COMPLETE FAILURE OF YUGOSLAV DEL TO GET ANY SUPPORT FOR ITS DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RADICAL REVISION OF THE STRATEGY AIMED AT REDEFINING "TECHNICAL COOPERATION" IN A WAY THAT WOULD HAVE REDUCED WHO'S COORDINATING ROLE AND INCREASED SUPPLY AND EQUIPMENT COMPONENT IN BENEFITS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS. YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE BEING INTERPRETED HERE AS EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN BELGRADE'S POSITION IN G-77. IF SO, IT FAILED. FINDING ITSELF IN THIS STRANGE COMPANY, U.S. DEL MADE SECOND STATEMENT AFTER VOTE AGAIN EXPLAINING ITS POSITIONS IN TERMS OF OPPOSITION IN PRINCIPLE TO UNALLOCATED FUNDS AND REAFFIRMING ITS SUPPORT FOR MUCH OF THE DG'S STRATEGY. OUR GENEVA GROUP COLLEAGUES SHOOK THEIR HEADS SADLY OVER OUR ISOLATION ON THIS ISSUE. IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS WITH MANY LDC DELS, U.S. DEL ENCOUNTERED BEWILDERMENT AND DISMAY OVER OUR POSITION WHICH, DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, THE INSISTED ON INTERPRETING AS U.S. DISTRUST OF WHO AND OF DG'S JUDGEMENT.

5. COMMITTEE B: PRINCIPAL ITEM OF INTEREST WAS ISSUE OF VIET NAM'S ASSESSMENT. DUE TO SOME CONFUSION OVER WHETHER THE MANY DELS WHO SPOKE WERE SUPPORTING A MINIMUM ASSESSMENT AS DESIRED BY VIET NAM OR AS RECOMMENDED BY UN COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS, DISCUSSION WOUND UP WITH NO DEL HAVING SPECIFICALLY SUPPORTED THE LATTER BY

NAMING FIGURE OF 0.03 PERCENT FOR 1977-78. CONSEQUENTLY, SECRETARIAT HAS FELT OBLIGED TO DRAFT FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION ON MAY 9 A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ONE-HALF OF 0.02 PERCENT FOR SECOND HALF OF 1976 (WHICH IS OK) AND FOR 0.02 PERCENT FOR 1977 AND 1978 (WHICH IS NOT). MEMBERS OF GENEVA GROUP WILL MEET BEFORE COMMITTEE B RESUMES TO PLAN TACTICS WHEN DRAFT RESOLUTION IS TABLED.

6. KENNEDY: ON MAY 6 SENATOR KENNEDY SPOKE TO CROWDED HALL IN PALAIS DES NATIONS WHERE WHO DELEGATES AND STAFFERS CAME TO HEAR HIM SPEAK UNDER AUSPICES OF WHO STAFF
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ORGANIZATION. IT WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL WHO FUNCTIONS, AND HE DID NOT SPEAK AS MEMBER OF US DEL. HIGHLIGHTS OF SPEECH, WHICH WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED, FOLLOW: EXPRESSION OF DISMAY AND CONCERN FOR LDCS' RURAL POOR WHO SUFFER MOST OF THE WORLD'S ILL HEALTH; UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR THE WHO CALL FOR ALL DCS TO INCREASE THEIR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVEMENT OF THE LDCS QUALITY OF LIFE; SUPPORT FOR WHO PROGRAMS OF TROPICAL DISEASE RESEARCH, PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, AND EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION; AND PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CORPS, FASHIONED AFTER U.S. PEACE CORPS BUT INCLUDING ALL LEVERLS OF HEALTH PERSONNEL, AND UNDER AEGIS OF WHO. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

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